interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Schemes for Settlement of old dues under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979, Re-structuring of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), pricing to be applied to the specific drugs as listed under National List of Essential Medicine, 2003 and formulations based on 74 bulk drugs under DPCO, 95.

After receipt of comments of various departments, the draft policy would be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

Delinking procurement price from M.S.P.

442. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to delink the procurement price from the Minimum Support Price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP has been formulated in the Department of Food and Public Distribution, to ensure that the required quantity of foodgrains are procured to meet the commitments under the TPDS and other foodgrains based Welfare Schemes.

Strengthening PDS

443 SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to strengthen PDS keeping in view the changes in the Essential Commodities Act and the recent price rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?